

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1401

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS STATEMENTS ON THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

- SLOT

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS' VIEWS ON HIS WIFE'S POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DPM) WERE REPORTED DIFFERENTLY IN THREE MANILA NEWSPAPERS SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11. THE MARCOS STATEMENTS WERE PART OF MEDIA COVERAGE SURROUNDING THE PRESIDENT'S SIXTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY, WHICH WAS CELEBRATED AS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER 11. THESE LATEST PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTS SHED LITTLE REAL LIGHT ON HOW THE DPM ISSUE WILL BE RESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SEPTEMBER 10 "BULLETIN TODAY" MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT FEATURED A MARCOS INTERVIEW HELD TWO WEEKS EARLIER IN WHICH HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS TO THE OBSERVATION THAT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL HIS WIFE WILL BE NAMED DPM: QUOTE: CATEGORICALLY, NO* THE FIRST LADY IS NOT GOING TO BE DPM. SHE AND I HAVE AN AGREEMENT ON THIS. SHE'LL NOT ACCEPT. NOT EVEN A DRAFT. I'VE THOROUGHLY STUDIED THE MATTER, AND WE'LL PUT AN END TO ALL THIS TALK ABOUT DYNASTY. IMEE (THE MARCOS' ELDEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHILD) WAS QUALIFIED TO RUN FOR THE IBP BUT SHE DID NOT FOR THE SAME REASON. THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR ME TO APPOINT A DEPUTY MINISTER/MINISTERS IF I SO DESIRE AND I SO DESIRE. END QUOTE.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 11, HOWEVER, BOTH THE "DAILY EXPRESS" AND THE "TIMES JOURNAL" CARRIED MARCOS INTERVIEWS IN WHICH HIS

RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON IMELDA FOR DPM IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR. IN THE "DAILY EXPRESS" INTERVIEW, CONDUCTED SEPTEMBER 9 OR 10, MARCOS IS REPORTED TO SAY: QUOTE: I HAVE HEARD FROM NEARLY ALL THE REGIONAL LEADERS AND OF COURSE FROM THE FIRST LADY. THEY ARE FOR IT AND SHE IS NOT -- A STALEMATE WHICH COMPLICATES THE DECISION. NOW I HAVE TO CALCULATE, IN ADDITION, HOW RESISTABLE IS THE FORCE, OR ALTERNATIVELY, HOW MOVEABLE IS THE OBJECT. END QUOTE.

4. IN THE "TIMES JOURNAL" MARCOS STATES: QUOTE: THE FACT THAT SO MANY SEEM TO BE FOR IT, BUT THAT SHE IS THE FIRST ONE AGAINST IT COMPLICATES THIS QUESTION A LITTLE BIT, AND GIVES US TIME TO PONDER OUR WISEST COURSE. LET US NOT BE HASTY ABOUT IT. END QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: THE SUM OF THESE LATEST MARCOS RESPONSES PROVIDES LITTLE NEW INSIGHT INTO HOW THE IMELDA FOR DPM SAGA WILL FINALLY PLAY OUT. TOUSSAINT

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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